

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 IOE-00 SSO-00 INR-05

INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 /048 W
----- 125671

O R 231613Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7502

INFO USMISSION UN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, BE, US

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: BELGIAN DEMARCHE ON KOREA CORE GROUP

REFS: (A) USUN 2964 (B) STATE 177803 (NOTAL) (C) BRUSSELS 5030
(NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR ANDRE ERNEMANN, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND PERMREP-DESIGNATE TO UN, CONVEYED
TO US JULY 22 BACKGROUND OF BELGIAN CHARGE CAHEN'S JULY 16
DEMARCHE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BAKER (REFTEL B).
ERNEMANN SAID THAT MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVIGNON IS CONCERNED
IN U.S. PERFORMANCE IN KOREA CORE GROUP. ACCORDING TO
ERNEMANN, BELGIUM SEES CORE GROUP AS FORUM IN WHICH MEMBES
SHOULD "CONSULT AND ACT IN CONCERT" ON KOREAN ISSUE. AS DAVIGNON
SEES IT, U.S. USED CORE GROUP MEETINGS TO "INFORM" OTHER MEMBERS
OF COURSE OF ACTION THAT U.S. AND ROK HAD ALREADY DECIDED UPON,
OR TO "INSTRUCT" OTHER MEMBERS ON THEIR ROLE IN A SCENARIO
ALREADY DECIDED UPON. BELGIANS DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT
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U.S. HAS MUCH INTEREST IN WHAT CORE GROUP MEMBERS HAVE TO

CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY OR TACTICS. ERNEMANN SAID BELGIAN PROBLEM WITH U.S. ON CORE GROUP WAS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF FORM, NOT SUBSTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, BELGIUM HAS SOME SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS ABOUT THE QUESTION OF ABOLITION OF UNC THAT IT CONSIDERS MERIT CAREFUL CORE GROUP EXAMINATION.

2. AMBASSADOR ERNEMANN SAID BELGIANS WERE PLEASED WITH BAKER'S GENEROUS RESPONSE TO CAHEN, ALTHOUGH CONCERN HERE HAS NOT BEEN ALLAYED. ERNEMANN CITED JULY 21 CORE GROUP MEETING AS EVIDENCE THERE OF: U.S. "INFORMS" GROUP ABOUT SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH CONTAINING NEW ELEMENTS AND "ASKS" (I.E. INSTRUCTS) GROUP TO GO FORTH AND SELL THE NEW LINE. HE SAID BELGIUM WOULD CARRY OUT ITS CORE GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES AS CONVENOR IN VARIOUS NON-ALIGNED CAPITALS THIS TIME BECAUSE IT DID NOT WANT TO DISRUPT THE CORE GROUP EFFORT AT THIS LATE DATE.

3. COMMENT: DAVIGNON, WHO IS ACCUSTOMED TO CLOSE AND THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH USG ON IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES, HAS CLEARLY BEEN PUT OFF BY WHAT HE REGARDS AS ERRAND-BOY ROLE ASSIGNED TO BELGIUM IN CORE GROUP WORK. HE IS PROBABLY MORE THATN USUALLY EXERCISED BECAUSE HE HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN TRYING TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE KOREA PROBLEM IN UNGA (REF C). WHAT IS AT RISK HERE IS NOT CORE GROUP APPROACH FOR UPCOMING UNGA BUT A RECEPTIVE BELGIAN ATTITUDE TO OUR INITIATIVES IN FUTURE UN MATTERS.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, POLICIES, TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRUSSE07276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0604
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760730/aaaaazlg.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 177803
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 31ST UNGA: BELGIAN DEMARCHE ON KOREA CORE GROUP
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, BE, US, UNGA, (ERNEMANN, ANDRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006